



## Spring Calendar of Events

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### Star Gazing Party

Join Laura Cotts, guest astronomer from SUU, for a starry evening in the canyon! Learn about several spring constellations, how to use a star chart, as well as hear stories of the night sky. **Saturday, Mar. 28 8:00-9:30 p.m.**

**Under A Desert Moon**  
Expand your lunar knowledge! Enjoy an evening of 'moon gazing' with guest astronomer, Laura Cotts, as she discusses this prominent feature of the night sky! **Saturday, Apr. 4 8:00-9:30 p.m.**

**Yoga in the Canyon**  
Join Kim Nally, yoga instructor of Westside Studios, for a short hike and a morning of gentle yoga. Enjoy this opportunity to balance, mind, body and spirit in the canyon. Activity includes a 1.5-mile roundtrip hike. **Saturday, Apr. 18 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

### Desert Reptile Awareness

Are you aware that Southern Utah has the greatest number of reptiles in the state because of its diverse plant communities? Join Ann McLuckie, Wildlife Biologist, on a morning hike in desert tortoise habitat and look for signs of reptiles! Also, learn about their unique desert adaptations during an evening slideshow. Registration required for each event. **Friday, Apr. 24 6:30-7:30 p.m., program**  
**Saturday, April 25 10:00-11:30 a.m., hike**

**Scorpion Search**  
Have you ever wanted to see a scorpion up close? Join us as we learn more about these amazing creatures and search for resident scorpions! **Friday, May 1 8:45-9:45 p.m.**

**Native Cultures & Snow Canyon**  
Join Boma Johnson, archaeologist, on this 1.5 hike which focuses on the canyon's earliest

people. Learn more about how native cultures relied on the canyon and what it meant to their daily lives. **Saturday, May 9 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

**Nature Sketchwalk**  
Explore the fun of nature sketching on this 1.5-mile, roundtrip hike! Increase your enjoyment of the canyon. **Saturday, May 16 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

**Petrified Dunes Revealed**  
The sandstone formations throughout the canyon contain many subtle features. Join park staff for a 1.5-mile roundtrip hike along the Petrified Dunes as we discuss the Navajo Sandstone and some of its overlooked features. **Saturday, May 23 8:30-10 a.m.**

**Lava Tubes Tour**  
Join park staff for a two-mile, roundtrip hike and the chance to explore the unique formations of a lava tube! **Saturday, May 30 9-10:30 a.m.**

*All listed events are free and open to the public. Program registration is held two days preceding the scheduled event.*

*Please register by phone or in person. For more information or to register for a program contact park staff at (435) 628-2255.*

**Johnson Canyon**  
ranger-guided hikes will be offered weekly throughout the spring. Join park staff on this two-mile roundtrip hike and learn more about the natural history of the area as you traverse lava flows and desert scrub community.

Program times vary from week to week. Please call (435) 628-2255 for registration information and current weekly schedule.

## Snow Canyon State Park

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Ivins, UT 84738

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### ***Utah State Parks:***

*Providing opportunities to enhance the quality of life by preserving natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.*

## **Snow Canyon: *Supporting People Through Time***

Artifacts reveal the presence of humans in Snow Canyon as early as 500 BC. From ancient cultures to 19<sup>th</sup> century pioneers, humans have used this canyon for thousands of years. Ancestral Puebloans, or Anasazi, inhabited this area from A.D. 200 to 1250. They relied on the canyon for hunting and gathering. Men formed hunting parties while women and children gathered plants. Food collected in the canyon allowed them to supplement the corn, squash and other crops that they grew along the nearby Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers.

Southern Paiutes used the canyon from A.D. 1200 to the mid-1800's for hunting deer, rabbits, and gathering seeds, roots, nuts and berries. They made baskets, sandals, and other everyday items from canyon plants.

The first known Europeans to explore the area were the Dominguez-Escalante Party in 1776. Fur trappers – including Jedediah Smith – followed later; and government survey parties later still. By 1849, Mormon leader, Brigham Young, sent men to this area to scout future town sites.

In 1854, Mormon pioneers started a mission at nearby Santa Clara, followed by St. George in 1861. Story has it, that early pioneers happened upon Snow Canyon while searching for lost cattle. Early ranchers used the canyon for cattle grazing. Pioneer newspapers record picnicking and recreation in Johnson Canyon as early as 1871. Pioneer journals tell of a young girl named Maude Johnson who sang for the picnickers from beneath the canyon's arch – making lovely use of the great acoustics.

Created as a state park in 1959, the canyon continues to draw people to its spectacular vistas. While people no longer rely on the natural resources found here for their survival, the canyon is important for other reasons. The scenic splendor of the park provides the perfect backdrop for spiritual, educational, and recreational opportunities for an evolving community.

Whether you are a nature lover, hiker, biker, camper or other outdoor enthusiast, Snow Canyon continues to enrich our lives. Join us this spring on one of our many planned activities!



*Sand Dunes Traveler*, 1909 photograph for SCSP exhibit, used by permission Special Collections Dept., J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.